

performing a protocol exchange transaction including selecting the protocol via a user interface and loading the protocol at the medical diagnostic location from the machine readable medium via a network connection to the medical diagnostic location; and storing an accounting record of the transaction.

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60. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the accounting record includes data for invoicing fees associated with the protocol.

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61. (New) The method of claim 59, comprising the further step of transmitting an authorization prompt to the medical diagnostic location prior to loading the protocol.

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62. (New) The method of claim 59, comprising the further step of verifying a service subscription of the medical diagnostic location, the accounting record referencing the subscription.

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63. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the subscription verified includes data representative of a time expiring subscription.

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64. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the user viewable indicia include a textual description of the protocol.

65. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the user viewable indicia include an exemplary image obtainable via the protocol.

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66. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the user viewable indicia are viewed at a computer workstation coupled to the medical diagnostic system

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~~67~~. (New) The method of claim ¹~~59~~, wherein the protocol includes data for filming, viewing, reconstructing or processing images reconstructed from image data.

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~~68~~. (New) The method of claim ¹~~59~~, wherein the network connection includes the Internet.

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~~69~~. (New) A method for obtaining an operational protocol for a medical diagnostic system or institution, the method comprising the steps of:

ordering a protocol by viewing a protocol list on a user interface at the medical diagnostic system or institution, and selecting a desired protocol from the list;

performing a transaction by accessing data from a protocol library defining the desired protocol via a network link between the diagnostic system or institution and the library, and transmitting the data from the library to the diagnostic system; and

storing a record of the transaction.

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~~70~~. (New) The method of claim ¹⁰~~69~~, wherein the library includes protocols for a plurality of diagnostic system modalities, and wherein the protocol list includes only protocols for a modality of the medical diagnostic system.

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~~71~~. (New) The method of claim ¹⁰~~69~~, comprising the further step of transmitting data descriptive of the protocol to the medical diagnostic system for addition to the protocol list.

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~~72~~. (New) The method of claim ¹⁰~~69~~, comprising the further step of authorizing a fee for the protocol.

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~~73~~. (New) The method of claim ¹⁰~~69~~, wherein the network link includes the Internet.

Art 37 74. (New) A system for providing operational protocols to a medical diagnostic station or institution, the system comprising:
at least one storage device for storing data defining a protocol, the protocol including data for controlling operation of the diagnostic station;
a messaging module in the diagnostic station or the institution for formulating messages containing data descriptive of a desired protocol; and
communications circuitry for establishing a network link between the diagnostic station or institution and a remote protocol provider, for transmitting data descriptive of the desired protocol, and for receiving a reply from the remote protocol provider.

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¹⁶ 75. (New) The system of claim ¹⁵ 74, wherein the communications circuitry is configured to access the Internet and to transmit the data descriptive of the desired protocol in a message via the Internet.

¹⁷ 76. (New) The system of claim ¹⁵ 74, wherein the messaging module is provided on the medical diagnostic station.

Art 477 77. (New) The system of claim 74, wherein the messaging module is provided on a computer workstation networked to the medical diagnostic station within the institution.

¹⁹ 78. (New) The system of claim ¹⁵ 74, wherein the storage device is local to the remote protocol provider.

REMARKS

By the Preliminary Amendment filed with the present Application, claims 2-58 from the parent case were cancelled. By the present paper, claim 1 is cancelled and new claims 59-78 are added. Upon entry of the amendments only claims 59-78 will remain pending in the present Application. The new claims incorporate subject matter recited in